

House Resolution 540

By: Representatives Jones of the 44th, Thomas of the 55th, Ashe of the 56th, Buckner of the 76th, Benfield of the 85th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and commending Ms. Na'Taki Osborne; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Na'Taki Osborne has dedicated her career to ensuring that all people,
3 regardless of race or income, have access to healthy and safe living and working conditions
4 and equal protection under environmental laws; and

5 WHEREAS, since graduating from Spelman College in 1996, this Atlanta resident has
6 volunteered her time and talent to help those living in environmentally degraded
7 communities, educating them about the links between environmental exposure and health and
8 empowering them to take the necessary personal and political action to challenge polluters
9 who threaten or impair their quality of life; and

10 WHEREAS, having received her master's degree from the Rollins School of Public Health
11 at Emory University in 2002, she works as an environmental scientist and National
12 Leadership Development coordinator at the National Wildlife Federation; and

13 WHEREAS, in this position and through her community group, the West Atlanta Watershed
14 Alliance (WAWA), she has created youth environmental mentorship programs, organized
15 community environmental health fairs, developed a leadership development and advocacy
16 skills training program for community leaders, and organized the first community lobby day,
17 which gave residents an opportunity to express their opinions and insights concerning critical
18 environmental legislation and helped to shape Georgia water policy; and

19 WHEREAS, she was instrumental in helping to raise over one million dollars to protect 169
20 acres of greenspace in her own community, making this west Atlanta neighborhood, which
21 has been impacted by hazards such as landfills, incinerators, illegal dumps, wastewater
22 treatment plants, and sewage overflow facilities, home to one of Atlanta's largest greenspace
23 tracts; and

1 WHEREAS, as co-founder of the Center for Environmental Public Awareness (CEPA), a
2 nonprofit organization that supports community groups seeking environmental justice, Ms.
3 Osborne is quickly becoming known as an effective advocate and respected expert in the
4 field of environmental justice and is a nationally recognized and highly sought-after speaker
5 and consultant; and

6 WHEREAS, this remarkable woman served as president of the Greater Atlanta Millennium
7 Section of the National Council of Negro Women from 2000 to 2004, leading over 200
8 women primarily between ages 18-35 to spearhead numerous strategic and community
9 initiatives, such as a HIV/AIDS prevention education initiative, a literacy initiative,
10 education advocacy, the fight to end child prostitution and adolescent sexual exploitation,
11 and the development of the Young Women's Issues Forum program and the Mary McLeod
12 Bethune Leadership Institute for teenage girls; and

13 WHEREAS, she has also served her community as secretary of the Board of Directors for
14 Helping Our Teen Girls in Real Life Situations, Inc., a Red Cross certified African American
15 HIV/AIDS instructor, a volunteer youth motivational speaker in the Atlanta public school
16 system, a member of the Steering Committee of the Georgia Coalition for the People's
17 Agenda, and the Atlanta coordinator of the Clinton-Gore "America Goes Back to School"
18 initiative, working to promote young people staying in school through high school
19 graduation; and

20 WHEREAS, as Women's History Month, March, 2005, is set aside to celebrate and honor
21 those women who have contributed their time and talents to the betterment of this state and
22 this nation, and it is only fitting and proper that Ms. Osborne be recognized on this highly
23 significant occasion.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body join to honor Ms. Na'Taki Osborne, commend her extraordinary
26 dedication to protecting and improving the quality of life of her fellow citizens, and extend
27 their sincere best wishes for her continued success.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
29 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Na'Taki Osborne.